Remarks

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 14, 24, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Sakurai.

With this amendment, Applicants have added the language:

> ... and for allowing displaying an image read by said reader
> when said detection device detects that said reader is
> selected or installed ...

to claims 1, 14, and 24. Similar language has been added to claim 27 and is present in new claim 32. Support for these amendments may be found on page 14, lines 18-21 of the disclosure.

According to the claimed invention as amended, when the reader is selected, the read software installed in the information processing apparatus is automatically launched, thereby allowing for display of a read image. This greatly improves the operability of the system.

In contrast, while Kaneko discloses an apparatus which can selectively function as a printer and a reader, he does not disclose launching means as the Examiner admitted on page 3, lines 7-10 of the 6th paragraph.

Moreover, Sakurai merely discloses switching between different printer drivers, not between printer software and read software, depending upon an option added to a printer. From the description in column 6, lines 64-67 of Sakurai, it is clear that the added option does not realize a reader function.

Further, Minamizawa discloses controlling the operation of a host computer depending upon whether a peripheral device functions as a scanner or a printer. However, there is no teaching about automatically launching either scanner software or printer software when the function is selected.

Thus, none of the cited references disclose automatically launching either print software or the read software installed in an information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected, nor allowing the display of an image read by the reader when the reader is selected or installed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 14, 24, 27, and new claim 32, as well as claims 2-13, 15-23, 25, 26, and 28-31 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the telephone number given below.

In the event any fees are necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 13-4500, order no. 1232-4465.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN
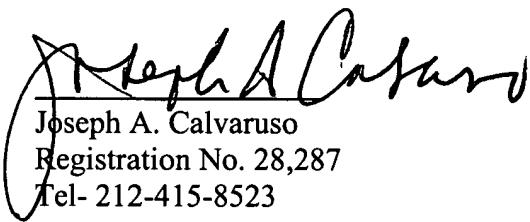
Dated: May 25, 2001   By:

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5

APPENDIX

SPECIFICATION

Amendment to Specification, page 3, lines 5-11:

> When switching from the print function to the read function,
> first, a user [exchange] exchanges the print cartridge on the
> carriage of the print apparatus to the reader cartridge. After
> exchanging the cartridges, the user has to input an
> instruction to the host computer to execute software for
> reading, and the software for reading is executed in
> response to the operation.

Amendment to Specification, pages 10-11 lines 11 (page 10) - 2 (page 11):

> The host computer 2 is connected communicable with the
> controller 17 via the I/F 18. In the host computer 2, a driver
> software 21 for managing and controlling the printer 1,
> software for observing a state of the printer 1 (referred to as
> "state observation software" hereinafter) 22, software for
> printing (called "print software" hereinafter) 23, and
> software for reading (called "read software" hereinafter)
> 24 are installed. When the state observation software 22
> receives a read function set signal, it determines that the
> function to be executed must be changed from the print
> function to the read function, and terminates the print
> software 23 and [launch] launches the read software 24.
> Whereas, when the state observation software 22 receives a
> print function set signal, it determines that the function to be
> executed must be changed from the read function to the
> print function, and terminates the read software 24 and
> [launch] launches the print software 23.

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to functions as a printer[, a reader, or printer] and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which print software and read software are installed, said system comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

launching means for automatically launching either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected by said detection device, and for allowing displaying an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

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14. (Amended) An apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer[, a reader, or printer] and a reader, which realizes a composite system in combination with an information processing apparatus to which print software and read software are installed, said apparatus comprising:

a detection device for detecting the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

output means for outputting a signal indicative of the selected or installed option detected by said detection device, and for allowing displaying an image read by said reader when said detection device detects that said reader is selected or installed.

24. (Amended) An information processing apparatus to which print software and read software are installed, which realizes a composite system in combination with a first apparatus, having convertible options to function as a printer[, a reader, or printer] and a reader, said apparatus comprising:

launching means for automatically launching either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the option selected or installed on said first apparatus, and for allowing displaying an image read by said reader when said reader is selected or installed.

27. (Amended) A function execution method used in a composite system including a first apparatus having convertible options to function as a printer[, a reader, or printer] and a reader, and an information processing apparatus to which print software and read software are installed, said method characterized by comprising:

a detection step of detected the option, selected or installed, on the first apparatus; and

a launching step of automatically launching either the print software or the read software installed in the information processing apparatus depending upon the selected or installed option detected at said detection step, and allowing displaying an image read by said reader when it is detected in said detection step that said reader is selected or installed.

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